

Appl. No. 09/914,527
Atty. Docket No. 7471
Amdt. dated 7/27/2004
Reply to Office Action of 04/28/2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a detergent particle comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a surfactant material which is an anionic surfactant selected from the group consisting of alkyl benzene sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, alkyl alkoxy sulfates, and mixtures thereof with nonionic surfactants, said surfactant material being in the form of a paste or liquid and dry starting detergent materials;
- b) blending said surfactant material and ~~said~~ dry starting detergent materials to form a particle core as an agglomerate;
- c) passing said particle core to a coating mixer;
- d) providing an aqueous coating solution or slurry comprising water and a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material which is the double salt $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4\cdot\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ in a weight ratio of Na_2SO_4 to Na_2CO_3 of from about 80:20 to about 20:80 to said coating mixer;
- e) at least partially coating said particle core with said solution or slurry (d) in said coating mixer to form a detergent particle; and
- f) removing said water from said detergent particle, whereby the surface area of said detergent particle of step (f) is at least 10% less than that of the particle core of step (e).

Claim 11 - 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said coating mixer is selected from the group consisting of low speed mixers, fluid bed mixers, and combinations thereof.

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Claim 14. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein said coating mixer is a fluid bed mixer.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in Claim 10 ~~15~~, wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is Burkeite ~~the double salt Na₂SO₄:Na₂CO₃ in a weight ratio of Na₂SO₄ to Na₂CO₃ of from about 80:20 to about 20:80~~, whereby the surface area of said detergent particle of step (f) is at least 20% less than that of the particle core of step (e).

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein said step of providing said aqueous coating solution further comprises the step of spraying said coating solution into said coating mixer.